

### Abstract

The present invention relates to an apparatus for teaching a subject, such as an animal or child, how to vocally emulate desired sounds. Specifically, the present invention plays back a desired prerecorded sound when a sensor detects the presence of the subject. Furthermore, the present invention may provide a recording function, which allows the subject's trainer or parent to record a sound, that he or she wishes the subject to learn. This predetermined sound is then stored by the device and is played back allowing the subject to hear the sound when the sensing device detects the subject's presence. Because the subject's movement dictates the sound playback, the subject's learning of how to emulate the desired sound is facilitated. Additionally, the sound playback also provides comfort and companionship to the subject, thereby enhancing its quality of life.